



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Disability Commission Minutes 01/19/05**

**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 19, 2005**

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Joe Giurleo, Barbara Jones, Louis Krodel, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Tom Boudreau, Susan James

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Quest Present: Paolo Marinelli

### **Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2004:**

Barbara J. moved acceptance of the November 17, 2004 Meeting Minutes seconded by Joe.

### **Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2004:**

Barbara J. moved acceptance of the December 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes seconded by Joe.

### **Annual Report 2004:**

The Commission reviewed a draft of the Annual Report and recommended changes for the final Report.

### **Peirce Elementary School Access Issues:**

Jack said that Bruce Bruneau, Community Services Project Coordinator with the Mass. Office on Disability was informed by Stephan Chaires, Project Manager DRA Architects, that DRA would file a variance request regarding the circular ramp and the walkway at the Peirce Elementary School within the next two weeks.

### **Community Development Update:**

Kevin said that the Park Commission intends to request \$70,000 in CDBG funds to improve accessibility at the Locke Playground. Kevin said that this request could have an impact on other requests the Disability Commission would have for CDBG funds.

Kevin said that the Transportation Advisory Committee has engaged a consultant to review traffic flow and pedestrian safety from Mill Street to the Cambridge line. Kevin said that State funds to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in this area would probably be available in about five years.

### **Old/New Business:**

Kevin said that the Board of Selectmen would convene on Monday, February 28, 2005 to review current year program accomplishments of CDBG funded programs. Proposals for CDBG Program Year 31, which commences July 1, 2005, will be due by March 7, 2005. Kevin said that the Town expects to receive approximately \$1,476,000 in grant funds for CDBG Year 31. This will be about \$80,000 less than in Program Year 30.

Barbara J. expressed concern regarding the Town installing brick sidewalks. Kevin suggested that the Disability Commission develop a policy statement about this concern, and that this policy statement be sent to the Town Manager.

Jack said that Vision 2020 has included in the Town Census a questionnaire that includes questions prepared by the Disability Commission. The Commission will be notified by the end of March 2005 as to the information obtained by this questionnaire.

Paolo Marinelli requested consideration of a curb bump out in front of Johnnie's Foodmaster.

**Legislative Update:**

Jack said that Governor Romney signed into law a new measure that increases the criminal and civil penalties for those who abuse, neglect or exploit the elderly and disabled. The new measure broadens the law relative to the authority of prosecutors to file civil actions against persons who abuse, mistreat or neglect patients or residents of a hospital or nursing home. It permits recovery against one who recklessly permits another to commit the prohibited acts. It also increases criminal penalties up to \$20,000 depending upon the seriousness of the crime, and second or subsequent offenses would be punishable by up to 20 years in jail.

Barbara C. said that Medicare intends to make it more difficult for mobility impaired to receive benefits to cover the cost of wheelchairs.

Barbara C. said that a meeting would be held on February 7, 2005 regarding changes in the IDEA legislation. Barbara C. said that children's rights are less protected with the new proposed IDEA changes.

Barbara C. said that the Twenty Seventh Legislative Reception sponsored by the Mass. Developmental Disabilities Council and the ARC of Massachusetts is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Grand Staircase Hall, State House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Barbara C. said that this is an opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss priority bills and budget items that pertain to persons with disabilities.

Jack said that Chief Ryan of the Police Department has completed the warrant article that if approved by Town Meeting will empower police to enter onto private property on which the public has a right of access as invitees and/or licensees to enforce handicapped parking violations. Town Meeting will vote on this article during the 2005 Annual Town Meeting. Jack said that this article has been inserted in the Town Warrant at the request of the Disabilities Commission and the Chief of Police.

Jack said the draft of Governor Romney's revised Affirmative Action Plan includes people with disabilities. People with disabilities were not included in previous State Affirmative Action Plans.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.